

PURPOSE

The purpose of this handbook is to provide specific information regarding the Pre-Kindergarten program at Immanuel Christian Academy. This handbook is a supplement to the Family Handbook given at Registration.

PHILOSOPHY

The educational program and philosophy are based on meeting the developmental needs of each child in a Christian manner.

We believe that all students can learn. We further believe that the classroom and curriculum are designed to allow for children's experimentation and exploration in many areas including creative activities, dramatic play, art, music, sensory motor skills, the community and the environment.

Our goal is to ensure that each student develops that academic, social, and emotional skills needed to succeed in school and in a diverse society.

To achieve our goal, we provide an individualized, developmentally appropriate approach to learning with an emphasis on language, communication, numbers, and literacy skills.

Faculty, staff, parents and students will partner with one another to create a nurturing and supportive environment.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Provide a quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the students to succeed and grow

- *Hold parent-teacher conferences and meetings throughout the school year to discuss student achievement and progress.

- *Communicate on a regular basis to keep parents informed of student progress as well as class activities and events.

- *Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in class activities.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Make sure that child regularly attends school, is on time and prepared for learning (is rested, has eaten, and does not attend when sick or contagious)

*Engage daily with your child by reading or discussing what was learned in school as well as monitoring time spent watching TV, playing video games and limiting distractions

*Be actively engaged and involved with child's education by helping or aiding with, but not completing assignments

*Staying informed about child's education by communicating with the teacher and school and attending school events and activities, volunteering whenever possible

*Being an active partner in helping to prepare the student for kindergarten.

CURRICULUM

Reading Readiness: listening to and following directions, left to right progression when reading and writing, letter identification, and letter sounds.

Math Concepts: patterning, sorting, one to one correspondence, greater than/less than, shapes, size sequencing, number recognition, number writing.

Fine Motor Skills: manipulating small objects, tracing, painting, coloring, pencil grip, correct letter formation (writing), and cutting.

Awareness of Self: respect of self and others, as well as our school community, waiting one's turn to speak and play, and completing daily tasks.

Religion: teaching the love of Jesus through Bible stories, participation in prayer and weekly chapel, recognizing the importance of equality of each person, respect for all of God's creation.

Creative Arts: explore a variety of art processes: painting, drawing, collage, etc., sing traditional songs and songs that enhance the curriculum, use a variety of children's instruments, participate in dramatic play.

ITEMS PROVIDED BY PARENTS

Blankets or Sheets – All students need a labeled blanket or sheet for the sleeping mat during rest time. A small pillow or stuffed animal is optional. These items will be stored in the classroom for the week and then sent home at the end of the week for washing.

Extra Clothing – Please send a labeled extra change of clothes that are appropriate for the season.

Please make sure to label all items belonging to your child. This includes bookbags, lunch boxes, water bottles, and other items.

MEETING WITH THE TEACHER

Appointments with the teacher may be scheduled throughout the year, as necessary. Many teachers cannot be available for impromptu meetings/discussions at arrival time, as they are preparing for class and greeting students upon arrival. Please contact the teacher by email or phone to set up an appropriate time to meet.

SNACKS

Parents should provide a daily, healthy snack for their child. Ideas for snack that our class enjoys and will eat are packages of dried fruit, any fresh fruit (not pre-packaged in plastic cups with liquid), crackers, pretzels, veggies and dip, cheese sticks, yogurt sticks, graham crackers, applesauce, and bags of popcorn. **NO SNACKS WITH NUTS!**

NAPTIME

Naptime is a part of the daily schedule for the Pre-K program at Immanuel. The students have naptime after lunch recess, which is usually about 12:45pm until 2:00pm. Napping can be a learning opportunity that helps children recharge while establishing healthy sleep habits. During naptime our classroom is dimly lit with soft music playing to create a restful environment. Most of the students enjoy and need this time to recharge.

TOILET TRAINING

All Pre-Kindergarten students are expected to be potty-trained prior to entering the program. If a student has two accidents, the parents will be asked to remove the student from the program until such training has occurred.